CLAIMS

1 – 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A can trimmer apparatus comprising:

a housing adapted for use in a can production line;

a plurality of rotatable shafts, each shaft being at least partially disposed in the housing;

two blades that are each mounted on one of the rotatable shafts that extends from the housing; and

an adjustment mechanism that is in mechanical communication with at least one shaft and at least one of the blades, that is adapted to displace the at least one shaft longitudinally in the direction of a central axis of the at least one shaft, and that adjusts a gap between the blades through axial displacement of at least one of the rotatable shafts.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 8 further comprising a locking mechanism to substantially maintain the position of one of the rotatable shafts once the gap is adjusted.

11. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the gap is about 8-25% of the thickness of the metal of a can.

12-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 8 further comprising a sealed gear housing.

15. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 14 wherein the housing is sealed by o-rings.

16. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 8 further comprising spur gears.

17. (Currently Amended) A can trimmer apparatus comprising:

a housing adapted for use in a can production line;

a plurality of rotatable shafts, each shaft being at least partially disposed in the housing;

a first blade mounted on a first shaft of the plurality of rotatable shafts that extends from the housing;

a second blade mounted on a second shaft of the plurality of rotatable shafts that extends from the housing, wherein the first and second shafts are about the same mass; and

means for adjusting a gap between the first and second blades through longitudinal displacement of at least one of the plurality of rotatable shafts in the direction of a central axis of the at least one of the plurality of rotatable shafts, the means for adjusting is in mechanical communication with at least one rotatable shaft and at least one of the first and second blades.

18. (Previously Presented) The can trimmer apparatus of claim 17 further comprising:

a motion translator to translate the direction of motion of the second blade between open and closed positions with substantially no motion in the direction of the gap.

19. (Original) The can trimmer of claim 18 further comprising a sealed gear housing.

20. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 18 wherein the gap is about 8-25% of the thickness of the metal of a can.

21. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 18 wherein the gap is about 8-15% of the thickness of the metal of a can.

22. (Original) The can trimmer apparatus of Claim 18 wherein the gap is about 8-10% of the thickness of the metal of a can.

23. (Original) The can trimmer of claim 18 wherein the adjustment mechanism is accessible from the exterior of the apparatus.

24. (Original) The can trimmer of Claim 23 wherein the adjustment mechanism comprises:

an adjustment screw;

an adjustment nut; and

a locking mechanism.

25-26. (Cancelled)